RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 16th November, 1988
25th Kartika, 1910 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock.
[MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Central University in Assam

*81. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 991 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd August, 1988 and state:

(a) whether Assam Government has informed Central Government regarding allocation of land for the proposed Central University in that State;

(b) by when Government propose to introduce the Bill in this regard in the Parliament; and

(c) by when it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) The Government of Assam had informed that they have identified a site in the Nopam area near Tezpur for the location of the proposed Central University.

(b) and (c) There have been competing claims for the location of the University. The Government have therefore not yet taken a final decision on this matter.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the land for the university is to be given by the State Government. The hon. Prime Minister, in his public speech at Guwahati in 1985, declared just on the eve o the signing of the Assam Accord that a Central University will be set up in the Brahmaputra valley of Assam. The State Government, in accordance with the declaration of the Prime Minister, has identified the site in the Nopam area near Tejpur and has informed the Central Government accordingly. Moreover, cutting across all party lines, the people want it to be set up near Tezpur. Even the Members of Parliament of Arunachal support the site. In this context, I want to know who is competing claims for the location of the university against the declaration of the Prime Minister and against the decision of the State Government.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, this is not an issue in the Accord that has taken place. The position is that the Government will go into all the aspects of the matter. The State Government had earlier agreed that they would set up a university in the Brak Valley. But no progress has been made in that regard. All the issues will be reckoned for the purpose of taking a decision. It is true, as I have said in the main answer to the question itself, that a plot of land has been shown. But the Govt. has not as yet come to any decision. It is not possible for me to commit myself to a place at this stage.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: I only want to know who is the complainant or who is claiming that the location should not be in accordance with the decision of the State Government.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: It is the people of Assam only. It will be established in Assam. That is our commitment. That is our commitment and we stand by it. Now the question is about the place. It is for the people. There are competing claims. A lot of representations are coming and the matter has to be resolved to the satisfaction of both the parties.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: My colleague has said that a section of the people of the District of Cachar are putting up competing claims. Actually, a small section of the people of one district have been standing in the way of the development of the whole State. Whenever the people of Assam demand for something, may be a bridge over the river Brahmaputra or may be an oil refinery, the section which I have already mentioned always opposes all such demands. I want to emphasise that in the context of Assam agitation led by the people of the State, a declaration was made by the Prime Minister. I want to know for what reasons the demand of

another section of the people can come in the way. If tomorrow the people of some other place demand that the university should be located in some other place, will the Government take cognizance of that demand? If that is the attitude of the Government, then does it mean that the Government is going to eat back its own words thereby provoking the people to launch a mass movement against the Centre?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: Sir I do not know why the honourable Member has raised all these issues. So far as the Central Government is concerned, the Central Government treats Assam as one unit and the Central Government is very particular that every area of a State must be developed. We do not make any distinction between people and people. That is a matter for the State Government to resolve I am not pitching the claim of one against the other. We have received several representations. So, the Central Government has got to go into those representations and take an equitable view of the whole matter. I am not committing myself. You seem to be presuming certain things, but I am not presuming anything at this stage. The Government has not come to any conclusion. We believe that the entire Assam people must develop, the people in different areas living there must develop, and it is not one against the other.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Sir, is it a fact that the Members of Parliament belonging to the Congress (I) submitted a memorandum... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please. Only one supplementary. Yes, Mr. Basumatari.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Sir, it is only a small question. Is it a fact that the Congress (I) MPs submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister stating that it should be set up at Tezpur?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Members of the Congress(I) Party. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Basumatari.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: . . .represent both the views.

SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: Sir, I come from Assam. I know the mentality of Assam and I know the mind of Assam. So, with regard to the place that he has mentioned, I want to ask the honourable Minister through you whether it is desired by the whole people.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: What is it?

SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: I would like to know whether the place mentioned by Dr. Saikia is desired by the whole people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know whether it is desired by all the people.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, as I have said in the main answer itself, it is the Government of Assam who have informed us. That is what I have already said. I presume the Government represents the people. But the Government have said that they have identified a site and that is all that they have informed us of.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Prof. Lakshmanna.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is laudable on the part of the Union Government to think of developing all the regions of a particular State and there is no doubt about it. But then I would like to know one thing. The Central Universities have been established in different States. What were the guidelines that were followed by the Union Government in establishing those Central Universities and has this been one of the guidelines which also prompted them in setting up the Central Universities earlier? If that has not been there, what is the reason for making this as a guideline? Have there been any new guidelines proposed by the Union Government? Have they been circulated to all the State Governments and to the people so that whenever they demand a particular thing, this is followed? Therefore, I would like to know from the honourable Minister what the basis is.

Secondly, Sir, I would also like to know from the honourable Minister what is the way in which the will of the people could be determined One of the ways is that those who have been elected and those who represent the people, as elected, could be taken to be representing the will of the people and that is one way in which we can determine the will of the people. Now, the State Government of Assam has specifically said that there is a site. The site could be shown only if the Union Government asks where the site is. Therefore, I would like to ask the Union Government and the Minister in particular whether they have asked the State Government particularly to show the site and whether they have made any further inquiries in this regard.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, in matters like this, it is not possible to prepare a cut-and-dry guideline. Whenever it is felt that a University has got to be opened, the pros and cons are considered and one of the relevant factors—that is not the sole factor, but one of the relevant factors—is the area. Broadly, these things are taken into consideration and if an area is a backward area or a neglected area, automatically, any Government of the day has got to concentrate its mind on that area. Therefore, while there are no cut and dry guidelines in these matters, all the relevant factors including the relevant factor which I have already referred to about the backwardness of the area or the area part of it are also reckoned for that purpose While at this stage I am not exactly aware whether the Central Government has asked so that the State Government of Assam has replied; that information is not available with me. I can separately write to the hon. Member whether it has happened like this or whether it was voluntarily that the State Government itself has offered the plot of land.

PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government with regard to the policy of the Central Universities It is true that Central Universities are treated as ones which are qualitatively better in providing instructional programmes or research facilities And precisely for that reason every State tands to demand that. However, there is a problem that some of the Central Universities, because of inadequate renewal of infrastructural facilities or insufficient course correction, are inadvertently converting themselves into local Universities, whereas, on the other side, each State is demanding a new Central University. Now, would it be possible for the Government to clearly examine what is the role of the Central Universities *vis-a-vis* the general demand for the creation of better instructional facilities and programmes in different regions? Part (b) of my supplementary is, if there is a search for the criteria for setting up Central Universities, would it be possible to put the level of educational backwardness as one of the principal considerations in that region of the State rather than the political noise or the political bargaining clout, depending upon one or the other consideration? Part (c) of my supplementary: I would like particularly to ask, if there is a choice between making one additional University in one of the metropolitan cities and a Central University in one of the backward regions will the Government consider the second as a better priority rather than the first one?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, to answer part (c), my submission is that the UGC takes into consideration al the aspects and the matter is under study by the UGC. Part (a) and (b) I will take together. I have already said that there are no cut and dry guidelines. I am not ruling out—I must be frank in saying—I cannot rule out the political consideration for the purpose of setting up a Central University. We have done it in many States because of the political considerations also. That is also one of the relevant factors It may not be the sole criterion Therefore, I cannot rule out what he says because it is possible that we may say politically that an area is backward and therefore we should establish a University in that area. Your nomenclature is a different form; my nomenclature is political consideration. There should be no difficulty about it. As I submitted, there are no cut and dry guidelines laid down for this. All relevant factors that might arise in a situation will be reckoned for the purpose of taking a decision.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : माननीय सभापति जी, केन्द्रीय सरकार ने आसाम में केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय स्थापित करने का निर्णय भी ले लिया है और यह भी कहा है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार वहां पर केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय स्थापित करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है । लेकिन केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय किसी भी प्रदेश में स्थापित करने के लिए किसी विधेयक की जरूरत होगी और सैकिया साहब ने जो प्रश्न किया है विधेयक के संबंध में उसके उत्तर में कहा गया है कि विश्वविद्यालय के स्थान निर्धारण के लिए प्रतियोगी दावे रहे हैं , अतः सरकार ने इस मामले में अभी तक कोई अंतिम निर्णय नहीं लिया है । तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि विधेयक लाने में क्या दिक्कतें है, स्थान वगैरह तो आप तय करिएगा और यह चीज तो विधेयक में आयेगी नहीं । इसलिए मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि विधेयक के संबंध में भी सरकार की डावांडोल स्थिति है तो मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि विधेयक को लाने में क्या कठिनाई है ?

श्री पी० शिवशंकर : सभापति महोदय, निणय लेने के बाद ही विधेयक तैयार किया जायेगा और यह निर्णय लेने से पहले नहीं हो सकता । देखिए मेरा निवेदन यह है कि यदि विश्वविद्यालय की स्थापना की जाए तो उसके लिए विधेयक तैयार करना पड़ता है, उसका नाम देना पड़ता है कि इसका नाम फलाना होगा, फिर इसका काम यह होगा और आब्जैक्टिव्ज़ यह रहेंगे, वगैरह-वगैरह । इस वास्ते पहले आवश्यकता यह है कि हम निर्णय लें और निर्णय लेने के बाद फिर विधेयक पर हम आयेंगे ।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति जी, मंत्री महोदय ने यह तो स्पष्ट कहा कि सरकार की कमिटमेंट है कि वहां पर केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय खोलेंगे । यह तो स्वागत योग्य बात है ।

हम इतना ही जानना चाहते हैं कि यह सातवीं योजना में है या कि आठवीं योजना में है, कब तक इसको खोलेंगे ?

श्री पी० शिवशंकर : मैं इतना ही कह सकता हूं कि यह काम सात महीने में हो जाएगा । आपने सातवीं योजना की बात की है, तो यह सात महीने में हो जाएगा ।

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, it was precisely the question raised by Shri Chaturanan Mishra which I wanted to ask. The question of setting up a central university has been pending for quite some time. Now, the Minister says that since it is the Seventh Plan, it will be finalised in seven months. Perhaps, it would be better if it was possible for the Central Government to make up its mind earlier. In this connection I would like the hon. Minister to inform the House for how long the competing claims have been pending before the Union Government and what has been done in this regard so that they are enabled to take a decision on the issue.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, the matter has been pending for quite a long time. There is no doubt about it. There the question arises as to what will be the structure of this university. At one stage, we got bogged down on the issue whether it should be a residential university or an affiliated university. Various aspects were discussed. Obviously it takes a little time to discuss and to sort out these matters. What types of centres have to be established? All these details have been decided. Now the matter is at the final stage. The mind has to be made up about the place. Immediate action with regard to the various faculties that have got to be established has to be taken. There is also the provision for money which we have been able to make a little to start with. These are the issues which obviously take a long time. As I said, the matter is at the advanced stage. I said "within seven months" in the context of the Seventh Plan. I am not sure

whether it will be possible for me to bring the Bill within this session. Otherwise, it will be in the Budget Session.

*82. [*The questioner (Shri Basudeb Mohapatra) was absent. For answer* vide col. 33-34 infra].

Alternative airports

83. **PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:†**
SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the designated alternative airports for Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta;

(b) what special facilities are provided in these designated airports to meet the unforseeen requirements when the aircraft are required to be landed in these airports;

(c) what are the plans for their development; and

(d) which agency has been entrusted with the task of providing these facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (d) A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) The designated alternate airports are as follows:—

(A) For international flights (as reflected in the relevant documents of the International Civil Aviation Organisation).

1. Bombay: Karachi, Delhi, Madras Ahmedabad (for aircraft upto Boeing-707 only).
2. Calcutta: Dhakka, Delhi, Madras.
3. Delhi: Bombay, Calcutta, Karachi.
4. Madras: Bombay, Colombo, Trichirapally (for aircraft upto Boeing-737 only) and Trivandrum (for aircraft upto AB-300 only).

(B) For domestic flights:—

1. Bombay: Ahmedabad, Pune, Madras, Hyderabad, Nagpur, and Delhi.
2. Calcutta: Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Panagarh, Ranchi, Varanasi and Patna;
3. Delhi: Lucknow, Bombay, Jaipur and Agra;
4. Madras: Bangalore, Tirchirapally and Hyderabad.

(b) The aerodromes indicated at (A) above, with the exception of Ahmedabad, Tiruchirapally and Trivandrum, are full fledged International aerodromes equipped with all necessary facilties including customs immigration and health clearances. As regards Ahmedabad aerodrome, arrangements have been made with the Departments concerned viz. Ministers of Finance, Home and Health for providing the facilities for the clearance of passengers. At Tiruchirapally and Trivandrum airports, such facilities are available since they are already catering for international flights.

(c) The plans for provision of additional facilities in respect of some of the designated alternate airports are as under:

1. Ahmedabad: Installation of outer and middle markers to provide full Instrument Landing System (ILS) facilities is in progress. Construction of an international passenger terminal and expansion of the apron is proposed to be taken in the near future;
2. Hyderabad: It is planned to instal Airport Surveillance Radar (ASR) and to construct an international passenger terminal.
3. Nagpur: Installation of an Air Routes Surveillance Radar (ARSR) is in progress. Strengthening of the runway; strengthening and expansion of apron and expansion

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Prof. C. Lakshmanna.